

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of minimizing sticky keys in an electronic device having a body, circuitry, and a plurality of keypads, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a protectant coating; and
 - (b) applying the protectant coating on surfaces on the keypad and on the body to prevent sticking between the mating surfaces.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the protectant coating comprises a hydrophobic, highly anti-wetting surface treatment.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the protectant coating comprises a fluoraliphatic polymer.
4. (Original) A method of reversibly absorbing liquid penetrations into electronic devices having a body and circuitry, the method comprising:
 - providing a protectant coating;
 - applying the protectant coating on surfaces on the keypad and on the body to prevent sticking between the mating surfaces;

providing an absorbent structure in sheet-like form; and
placing the absorbent structure within the electronic device such that the structure covers the electronic circuitry to be protected.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the protected coating comprises a hydrophobic, highly anti-wetting surface treatment.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the protectant coating comprises a fluoroliphatic polymer.

7. (Original) A system for minimizing sticky keypads in electronic devices, the absorbent system comprising:

a first protectant coating on critical surfaces of the keypad; and
a second protectant coating on the mating surfaces to the critical surfaces of the keypad which are located in the body of the device; and
a water-permeable top sheet, a hydrogel-forming core, and a back sheet, the combination of elements forming the absorbent structure having a defined thickness; wherein the absorbent structure is characterized by having formations that allow for access to and penetration of electronic and mechanical elements.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7 wherein the first and/or second protectant coatings comprises a hydrophobic, highly anti-wetting surface treatment.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8 wherein the first and/or second protective coatings comprise a fluoraliphatic polymer.

10. (Original) A method of minimizing sticky keys in an electronic device having a body, circuitry, and a plurality of keypads, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a protectant coating wherein the protectant coating comprises a fluoraliphatic polymer; and

(b) applying the protectant coating on surfaces on the keypad and on the body to prevent sticking between the mating surfaces.

11. (Original) A method of reversibly absorbing liquid penetrations into electronic devices having a body and circuitry, the method comprising:

providing a protectant coating wherein the protectant coating comprises a fluoraliphatic polymer;

applying the protectant coating on surfaces on the keypad and on the body to prevent sticking between the mating surfaces;

providing an absorbent structure in sheet-like form; and

placing the absorbent structure within the electronic device such that the structure covers the electronic circuitry to be protected.

12. (Original) A system for minimizing sticky keypads in electronic devices, the absorbent system comprising:

a first protectant coating on critical surfaces of the keypad; and

a second protectant coating on the mating surfaces to the critical surfaces of the keypad which are located in the body of the device wherein the first and second protective coatings comprise a fluoraliphatic polymer; and

a water-permeable top sheet, a hydrogel-forming core, and a back sheet, the combination of elements forming the absorbent structure having a defined thickness; wherein the absorbent structure is characterized by having formations that allow for access to and penetration of electronic and mechanical elements.